born with birth defects in India every year and it is mainly due to uncontrolled environmental degradation; and

(b) if so, what are the remedial measures adopted by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) According to the National Neonatal-Perinatal Database Report supported by Indian Council of Medical Research, birth defects in about 1.7% of live births in tertiary hospitals were reported. Due to multifactorial causation, it is very difficult to attribute birth defects to any environmental changes/degradation.

(b) The measures taken for control of environmental hazards include comprehensive policy for environment and abatement of pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel including CNG/LPG in specified cities, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, management of municipal & bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening of the net-work of air & water quality monitoring stations, assessment of pollution load & source apportionment studies, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities and critically polluted areas.

Use of pesticides in rural areas

1234. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural areas are prone to newer diseases due to widespread use of pesticides;

(b) if so, what are the commonly used pesticides in rural India; and

(c) whether they are made available through a controlled system of his Ministry or not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) A number of pesticides are used in agriculture depending on the type of pest attack on specific crop. Their use does not cause any adverse effect on health if used as per recommendations of the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act by the

Ministry of Agriculture. The Committee registers pesticides only after satisfying itself regarding their efficacy and safety to human health and environment.

(c) No, Sir. The distribution, sale etc. of pesticides are regulated through the Ministry of Agriculture under the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the rules framed there under through issue of licenses by respective State Governments.

Deaths due to environmental effects

†1235. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Health Organisation has revealed in its recent report that deaths of one fourth human beings worldwide is caused due to environment;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied the said report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of effective steps being taken in order to improve the environment during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) According to the report of the World Health Organisation (WHO), 24% of the disease burden (healthy life years lost) and 23% (premature mortality) of all deaths were attributable to environmental factors on global basis. However, there were large regional differences and 25% of all deaths in developing regions and 17% of deaths in developed regions were attributable to environmental causes.

(d) The steps taken/envisaged in order to improve the environment include comprehensive policy for environment and abatement of pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel including CNG/LPG in the specified cities, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.